

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 3/21/11 has been considered. A copy of form PTO-1449 is attached.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Christopher M. Barkley (Reg. No. 64,329) on 5/6/11.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 9, 11-12 and 27-28.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

There was no prior art found by the examiner that suggested modification or combination with the cited art so as to satisfy all the limitations as now cited in claims 1 and 17. Especially, the prior art does not teach or suggest "a target substance detection element, including: a base; and a plurality of metal members to give rise to localized

Art Unit: 2886

surface plasmon resonance, wherein the metal members are arranged as spaced apart from each other on a surface of the base and wherein each of the metal members has a loop section or a crossing section".

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HOA Q. PHAM whose telephone number is (571)272-2426. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM TO 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tarifur Chowdhury can be reached on (571) 272-2287. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Hoa Q. Pham/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2886

HP
May 7, 2011